

IN THE CLAIMS

1-18 (cancelled).

19. (currently amended) A belt buckle, comprising:
a non-magnetic housing having an inner annular space
~~switch member therein; and~~
a switch member housed in the inner annular space; and
a non-magnetic locking member that is adapted to be
received and secured by said housing, and
wherein said switch member is capable of providing an
indication that the locking member is secured by said housing.

20. (previously presented) The belt buckle of claim 19
wherein said housing and locking member are made using materials
comprising glass-filled nylon.

21. (previously presented) The belt buckle of claim 20
wherein said housing and locking member are made using materials
comprising 33% glass nylon.

22. (previously presented) The belt buckle of claim 19
wherein said housing and locking member are made using materials
comprising high-strength ABS.

23. (previously presented) The belt buckle of claim 19
wherein said housing and locking member are made using materials
comprising G-10 fiberglass resin composite.

24. (original) The belt buckle of claim 19 wherein
said housing and locking member are made using materials
comprising high-impact PVC:

25-27 (cancelled).

28. (currently amended) The belt buckle assembly of claim 19 wherein said switch member is an optical switch.

29. (currently amended) The belt buckle assembly of claim 19, wherein said non-magnetic housing includes a base plate having a pair of longitudinal edges, a pair of lateral edges extending substantially transverse to said longitudinal edges, a groove having an open end and a closed end centered between said longitudinal edges and extending parallel to said longitudinal edges and a pair of locking levers each pivotally mounted along one of said longitudinal edges.

30. (currently amended) The belt buckle assembly of claim 29, wherein said base plate includes a raised portion at the other of said pair of lateral edges, said raised portion including a pair of notches into which are mounted a pair of springs, each of said springs exerting a force against each of said locking levers.

31. (currently amended) The belt buckle assembly of claim 29, wherein said non-magnetic locking member includes a base portion, a tongue projecting from said base portion, said tongue having at least one planar surface, a lug protruding from said at least one planar surface and a mating member mounted at an end opposite said non-magnetic locking member base portion.

32. (currently amended) The belt buckle assembly of claim 31, wherein each of said locking levers include a notch that forms an ear and said non-magnetic locking member includes longitudinal edges extending between said base portion and said end opposite said non-magnetic locking member base portion, each of said longitudinal ends of said tongue including recesses, and

wherein in said assembled position each of said notches engage one each of said recesses.

33. (currently amended) The belt buckle assembly of claim 29, wherein said non-magnetic housing includes a base portion having a lug member projecting therefrom, a first sidewall and a second sidewall projecting from said base portion.

34. (currently amended) The belt buckle assembly of claim 29, wherein said non-magnetic locking member includes a base portion and an elongated portion projecting from said base portion, said elongated portion including a free end opposite said base portion and a planar surface having a recess.

35. (previously presented) A belt buckle, comprising:
a non-magnetic housing including a base, first and second sidewalls projecting from said base so as to form a substantially U-shaped member and a lug member projecting from said base;

an electrical switching member having a pair of contact pins, said switching member being fastened to said base; and

a tongue plate having a base portion and an elongated portion projecting from said base portion, said elongated portion having a free-end opposite said base portion, a lower planar surface having a recess and mating member mounted at the free end thereof, and

wherein in an assembled position said tongue plate is inserted in said non-magnetic housing such that said lug engages said recess and said mating member engages said contact pins.

36. (previously presented) The belt buckle of claim 35, further comprising a handle pivotally mounted onto to said

sidewalls, said handle being operative to maintain said tongue plate in a locked position in said housing.

37. (currently amended) A combination for magnetic resonance imaging, comprising:

a magnetic resonance imaging apparatus having a pair of opposed elements spaced apart along a horizontal pole axis and defining a patient receiving space therebetween;

a patient support positionable in said patient receiving space; and

a non-magnetic buckle assembly including a housing, a locking member and a switch member and wherein said switch member provides an indication that a patient is secured to said patient support. ~~of whether said belt buckle assembly is latched.~~

38. (previously presented) The combination of claim 37, wherein said switch member comprises an optical switch.

39. (previously presented) The combination of claim 37, wherein said belt buckle assembly comprises an electrical switch.